

Intro

This is a participatory, workbook zine which is a pretty exciting idea for me. purpose is to help you, map, plan and navigate crisis, madness or maybe just a foul mood. You can use this as a template and fill it out, or you could make your very own. I know this format doesn't exactly work for everyone, so I hope that in the very least, it inspires you to make something else great for yourself. I also recognize that maybe all of the pages in here aren't applicable to everyone. I encourage everyone who reads this to augment it in any way that works best for them. Cut out pages, glue over other pages, burn it and make something new! Rip out this intro once you know what it says. This is about your voice, not mine.

The Idea basically, is to have something to keep near you, so if you're In a crisis situation, or experiencing some really intense emotions, you'll have all the tools to take care of yourself. be taken care of by folks who can support you, right there in front of you. Within my experience, when I get into really intensely emotional states, it's hard for me to think. Especially about my needs. And It's near impossible to express that to the people around me.

This project was inspired by all the tools and resources I've gained from my wonderful friends doing really awesome work within radical mental health collectives everywhere. I'm also doing this because I would never have made something like this if it were just for myself, but I am way more likely to follow through with something if it can benefit folks besides me as well (so, I hope this helps you, because it helped me to make it for you!)

Envelope

Glue an envelope here to keep things that make you smile. Letters from friends, pictures, comics cds, ect.

Resources

·Emotional First Aid-

http://www.vanissar.com/blog/emotional-first-aid-for-the-holidays-or-anytime/

•The Icarus Project-"The Icarus Project envisions a new culture and language that resonates with our actual experiences of 'mental illness' rather than trying to fit our lives into a conventional framework." Hella resources (zines, forums, etc) here: http://theicarusproject.net/

<u>*Learning to Love You More</u>- "Assignments" or activities to keep you busy and loving yourself. http://www.learningtoloveyoumore.com/index.php

•Self Care Tips

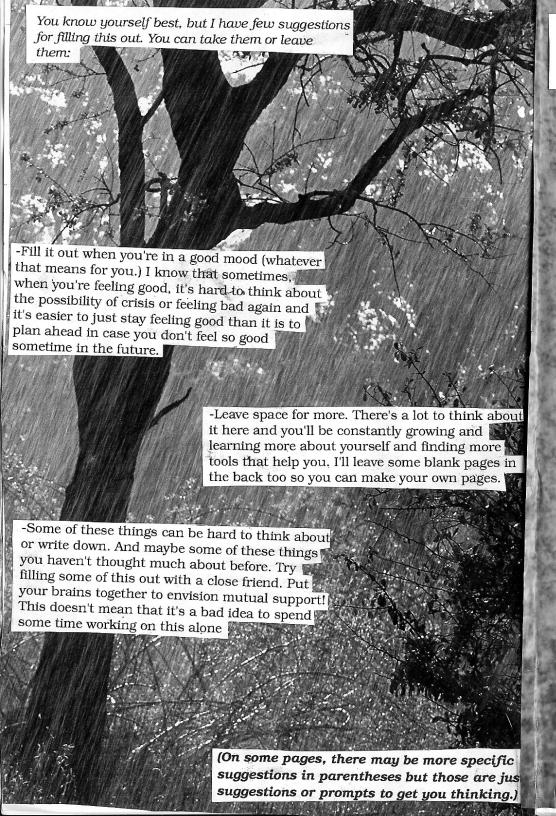
http://youarenotyou.tumblr.com/post/6946080609/epic-self-care-post

•Sucide Hotline- You can find a suicide hotline in your state here: http://suicidehotlines.com/ (the website looks hella cheesy, I know)



I want to note that this zine is working within a particular political framework. A framework that recognizes systematic oppression and acknowledges that the way we experience ourselves and our realities is inextricably entangled in the world around us. In other words, many of us cannot divorce ourselves from what surrounds us (the systems that connect us, or pit us against one another; That tell us what we should be, or coerce us into submission.) and isolate the ways we feel to label ourselves as "sick". We openly challenge institutions that diagnose us as "mentally ill" with the simple notion that perhaps we are not so crazy for being affected by a world that is so fucked up. We also challenge the idea that the ways we experience the world are "wrong", and that we are "sick" or "broken"; That we are something that needs to be corrected, that we must undergo treatment in order to be "normal". Rather, we see our experiences as something empowering. Something that needs to be held close to our hearts and understood so that we may liberate ourselves and the world around us.

This zine is an effort in hopes of imagining a world where everyone recognizes and supports the different ways that all of our minds and bodies may function. Where we have the time and the space to look into ourselves and discover our identities without fear of judgment for what we come up with. This zine hopes for a re-envisioning of mutual support within our communities, How we could listen to, and take care of each other in a way that is truly transformative.



(A blank page for you to fill in. This could be spill-over from another page, or something completely different)

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Contents Suggestions.....3 Daily Things to Take Care of Myself......5 Signs of Oncoming Crisis or Extreme State......6 Immediate Needs in Crisis Situation.....8 What My Friends can Do.....9 People I can Talk to/be With.....10 Safe Places/Spaces.....11 Things That Make me Laugh.....12 Easy Food a Friend or I could Make......13 Here are some Nouns to Avoid......14 Activities That make me Feel Better.....15 Note to Self......16 Resources......21

Daily Things to Take Care of Myself (this can be things like exercising daily, to tinctures, herbal supplements, vitamins, and medications that you may want to take regularly)

(A blank page for you to fill in. This could be spill-over from another page, or something completely different)



Signs of Oncoming Crisis or Extreme State

(Sometimes these things look like not eating or sleeping and becoming less social. It could also be the total opposite. It could be things like feeling as if you're feeling way too much too handle, or it could be that you feel numb. You could also include ways to recognize you may be triggered. Again, You know yourself best)

Triggers

(A Trigger is something that can set off a flashback, or re-living of past trauma. It could be anything from sights and smells, to something someone says or how they act, to a place, ect. If you don't identify as survivor of trauma, this could also double for a page of things the set off intense emotions or states.)

Note to Self

"inis is a page to write a note to yourself when you're feeling alright. It can be about how great you are, the things that you care about and that care about you, or a reminder that you won't be feeling the way you are forever. Send yourself some love!)

Activities that Help Me Feel Better

(This could be anything! Writing, painting, riding bikes, screaming, dancing, making music, cooking, cuddling, etc.)

My Immediate Needs

(What are your immediate needs in a crisis situation, extreme state, or when you're feeling triggered? This could be things like moving to a safer space, being away from people, sleep, food, etc.)

What can my friends do when I'm experiencing crisis, in an extreme state, or feeling triggered?

(This could also be a prompt that you can write up elsewhere and send to your friends Make sure you have their consent first! You could also include some of the recognizable signs of oncoming crisis from page 6 or what you may look like when you're triggered or in an extreme state)

Here are some Nouns I'd like to Avoid

(This could be things you do to deal with pain that <u>you</u> deem unhealthy, as well as people and places you may not want to be around. These things could possibly look like: substance abuse, harmful habits, self mutilation, foods that make you feel gross, music that makes you sad, etc.)

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Easy Food a Friend or I could Make
(This can include recipes and favorite foods you're more likely to eat if you're having a hard time eating. It can also include dietary preferences, restrictions or allergies)

People I'd can Talk to, or would like to Be Around

(This can include names and contact information. You may wan to check in. with these people before filling this out, as well as regularly, to make sure they are able and willing to support you)

Spaces I feel Safe/Safer in
(You can include addresses, maps, or directions you think it will help you or friends get you to one of these places)

Things that make me Laugh

(this could be anything! Books, movies, comics, pictures, people, silly Internet videos, etc.)